



It has fields and fields of green growing things, air filled with the smell of new-mown hay, a great mass of kaleidoscope sky and a bit of Abraham Lincoln behind every bend. The sunsets last forever here. The people are friendly and close to the earth. Central Illinois bids you a heartfelt welcome.





Wide-open, free and friendly, that's Central Illinois. It's land to be explored, from black tops and gravel roads, from Sunday morning small town cafes and impulsive forays to antique shops. It's for doing your own thing, letting yourself go, and finding your own special place. And be prepared for surprises.

That flat, black soil isn't as humble as it seems. It stretches over crude oil and coal, covers strip mines into places like Kickapoo State Park where you can have a lake all to yourself. It's plowed by Amish work horses and stereo-tape-equipped tractors. You can "barefoot" the new furrows halfway to your knees.

Anything wet goes. Throw in a fishing line. Paddle nine canoe trails including the Vermillion, one of the best whitewater rivers in the state. Joyride on the Kankakee River and the lakes of Shelbyville, Springfield and Decatur.

The Assembly Hall at the University of Illinois bears a striking resemblance to a flying saucer. Exotic statues dot the deep woods of Allerton Park near Monticello. In Bloomington, the mansion built by Lincoln's friend, David Davis, is so splendidly and thoroughly Victorian, a tour is an experience in 19th century living.

Abraham Lincoln stepped so deeply into the rich, black dirt of Central Illinois that you can follow him still. Trace Lincoln's heritage through New Salem, Petersburg, Lincoln and Springfield. You'll find Lincoln, the storekeeper, the circuit-rider, the legislator, the father . . . a man very much a part of the Illinois prairie he loved.

∇ Visit Amish colonies on Market Days







A storm
olls over
2 Illinois
prairie





A. GREENBERG

abla The only home Lincoln ever owned, Springfield





∇ The University of Illinois
 Assembly Hall





 \triangle A quiet stretch of the Sangamon River





See the
State Capitol,
Springfield

 ∇ Lincoln, the Circuit Rider, at New Salem





△ Lincoln's New Salem State Park



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